

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

February 16, 2022 Minutes

DRAFT

MEETING DETAILS	
Date and time:	February 16, 2022, 10 am
Venue:	Virtual through Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Patrice Beard (Parent and Partnership for People with Disabilities); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Bruce Cruser (MHAV), Heather Pate (Robin's Hope); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS); Katharine Hunter (DBHDS); Patricia Parham (DOC); Nick Pappas (PEER); Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton (PEER); Adam Creveling (DMAS); Justin Wallace (Suicide Prevention at VDH); Katharyn Clark (SAARA); Heather Orrock (VOCAL); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Karlyn Clevert-Smith (Private Provider); Jenny Sappington (MHAV); Duke Burruss (Citizen Advocate); Kristinne Stone (DOE); Jeff Van Arnam (DBHDS); Donna Bonessi (DARS); Dreamel Spady (Private Provider);
Guest(s)	Michael McDermott (Advocate with lived experience); Da'Kinach Thomas; Jennifer Witten;
Unexcused Absences	Caitlin DiBenedetto (NAMI)
Excused Absences	Mary McQuown (DBHDS); Shatada Floyd-White (Virginia Veterans Affairs)
Minutes Taken By	Hilary Piland
Presiding Officer	Patrice Beard, President
Order Called	Council convened at 10:00 AM

Quorum **was** present in today's meeting (requires 13 members, a majority [7 out 13] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrice began the meeting with introductions and icebreaker. 	

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting		
		<p>Bruce Crusier made a motion to approve the December minutes. Nick Pappas seconded that motion. The council voted to approve the minutes.</p> <p>➤ The December minutes were approved</p>
Treasurer's Report:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Crusier shared that the BHAC now has a balance of \$17,633. Because the council has not been meeting in person, it has not had any new expenses. Also, the amount has increased because the council recently received its regular income from DBHDS. • Bruce is going to suggest to the Executive Committee that the committee draft a plan to use some of the funds for some type of strategic plan development. The council went through a strategic planning process two years ago. It may be time to revisit that. • As well, Bruce noted that the funds can be used for BHAC members to do certain trainings. • Nathanael asked if advocacy organizations that are members of the BHAC can use the funds for people that participate in that advocacy organization's training classes. • As well, would the BHAC be able to purchase the training for the participants up front instead of reimbursing them after.
Executive Committee Report:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new updates. The Executive Committee was not able to officially meet in January because of COVID. The Executive Committee will meet in March.
Membership Report:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the December council meeting, the council voted Duke Burrus in as a new member. He was in attendance at this February meeting. The committee welcomed Mr. Burruss to the council. • Two new potential members are Carmen Lehnigk and Sandra Nickolas. They were not in attendance at this February meeting.
DBHDS Report:		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathanael updated the council on the question of can members attend the meeting virtually and count toward a quorum? He has received guidance that a virtual attendance will continue to count toward a quorum indefinitely. Since it is a federal mandate to fill the role of the block grant, the BHAC does not have the same requirement that other councils in Virginia have. There is nothing in the federal code that requires the council to meeting in person. Bruce suggested that the Executive Committee talk more about this when it meets to form official language for the bylaws on attending virtually. 	
Block Grant Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathanael shared that DBHDS has completed its end of year reporting process for the block grant. This is a report on the performance indicator outcomes and expenditures of the block grant so far. This coming year DBHDS will report on the mini block grant. 	
Committee Reports:			
		<p>Child and Youth Committee: Katharine shared that the Child and Youth Committee met in January. At this meeting DBHDS staff gave a presentation to the committee on what services the Office of Child and Family Services at DBHDS oversees.</p> <p>Adult and Elder Committee: Tara shared that the adult and elder committee reviewed its workplan at the last meeting and is working on determining to next steps for the committee's work.</p>	
New Business:			
		<p><u>Guest Presentation from Margaret Steele, Director of Adult Community Behavioral Health at DBHDS, on the MH Block Grant:</u></p> <p>Presentation is here: DBHDS Presentation on MH Block Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently there is an RFP out for NON-CBS entities to apply for ARPA funds. The deadline to apply is February 25th. The announcement of this RFP has already been circulated to non-CSB entities. The requirements for use of the funds will have to follow federal guidelines, but the guidelines for this are broad. Funding for the regular MH Block Grant is allocated to DBHDS on an annual basis. 	

Any remaining funds that are not spent by the end of the federal fiscal year will go back to the federal government. This is why DBHDS starts the allocation process before each fiscal year begins.

- DBHDS is also managing a new grant that is for first responders to have Naloxone available for individuals they serve that are experiencing an overdose.
- DBHDS will continue to apply for the SOR (State Opioid Response) grant.
- Some of the ARPA funds DBHDS received will go toward overhauling the CCS3 data system which is the current reporting system used to report on the services CSBs provide.

Legislative Update:

- Bruce Cruser shared that the letter advocating for certain legislation and funding that the BHAC developed was sent to the previous DBHDS commissioner and some key legislators in December. That letter is here: [Behavioral Health Advisory Council Letter for Legislators](#)
 - Some of the things the letter requested is a Peer reimbursement rate increase and to make the 12.5% Medicaid reimbursement rate increase permanent. Right now, that 12.5% increase is set to expire June 30th.
- Bruce noted that the outgoing governor's introduced budget does contain an increase in funds for Permanent Supportive Housing and for the Mental Health Access Program which provides a primary care physician or pediatrician with access to a consultation with a psychiatrist during the appointment with the patient.
- Bruce said the senate version of the barrier crimes legislation passed the senate, but the house version died.
- Bruce shared that the legislation to add a citizen member to the Behavioral Health Commission passed the house, so now it will go through the senate.
- Michael McDermott noted that no one mentioned the budget amendment from Delegate Coyner for funds for a Recovery Highschool in Chesterfield County.
- Nathanael Rudney shared that the SUD Council did endorse funds for the Recovery Highschool in its advocacy letter.
- Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton noted that the legislation for a feasibility study on converting Catawba Hospital to having both MH and SUD services has passed the House. Now it needs to pass the senate.
- Duke Burruss shared that Senator Favola and Delegate Coyner's legislation on

		<p>recovery residences have each passed their house of origin.</p> <p>Motion: Nick Pappas introduced the motion for the BHAC to send the letter again to the money committees to continue to advocate for the budget items listed on the letter. Bruce Crusier seconded that motion.</p> <p>➤ The BHAC voted to approve that motion</p>	
Public Comment:			
		<p>Michael McDermott from FAVOR Virginia – WWW.FAVORVA.ORG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McDermott shared that he does not feel the BHAC provides enough transparency for community recovery advocates that might want to learn more about this council. He noted that the agenda was not posted on the Commonwealth Calendar before the 24 hours before the meeting. • Nathaniel had noted that this was an oversight from DBHDS, and the agenda was posted as soon as DBHDS realized it was not posted. • There is a budget amendment for funds for the Recovery Highschool on both the house and the senate side. Mr. McDermott shared that 4.5% of teens have SUD and that 20 states have already developed recovery high schools. Mr. McDermott urged BHAC members to immediately call the senators and delegates listed on this advocacy page linked below to ask them to support the budget amendments listed here: Recovery Highschool Advocacy Page. 	
			Notes taken by Hilary Piland
		Meeting was adjourned at 11:40. The committees met after this meeting.	
<p>Next Meeting(s): April 20, 2022</p> <p>Location of meeting: via Zoom</p>			

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON _____

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